

Jamboree On The Air

By Paul Lewis G4APL

October 2001

Jota 2001 preface

First of all welcome to the Guide and Brownie Leaders that may be reading the Caterham Radio Group's (CatRad) and Caterham Guide's and Brownies JOTA 2001 report.

There are two radio events that Guides and Brownies can join in. February is Guides Thinking Day On The Air (TDOTA) and the Canadians Guides On The Air (GOTA). Next year 2002 this event has now been co-ordinated to run on the third weekend of February, Which is very good news October is Scouts and (Guides) Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

Both events are world wide, and run over a period of 48 hours from Midnight Friday to Midnight Sunday. The JOTA event is the largest.

It is expected some 500,000 Scouts, Guides were active over the weekend, supported by 25,000 Radio Amateur's worldwide over the 48 hour period.

There is lot of support from the Caterham Senior Guider's up to Commissioner Level for the Radio Communication Days using Amateur Radio to communicate around the United Kingdom and the rest of the world. Sending and receiving Greeting Messages with other Guide and Scout groups.

As one can expect, some guides have revisited the CatRad event five to ten times. Later as 'helpers'

The Caterham Guiders are very keen for the Radio Communication Badge to continue. So we come to JOTA 2001. Here is the story.

During the summer holidays again found Paul G4APL

reviewing the JOTA 2001 paper work, in anticipation of the confirmation from the Caterham Guides 'The_Boss' Robin, wanting to run the Radio Communication Day.

Contacted the Radio Society Of Great Britain (RSGB), that the Caterham Radio Group (CatRad) would be active again. Also the Club Licence would be amended to allow Greeting Messages to be sent to more countries than that specified on the Transmitting Amateur Radio Club licence.

Preparation

The paper work was passed to Janette Ralph 'Robin' Guide Leader Caterham 9th Guides, to co-ordinate the Caterham



Caterham Brownie during her Phonetic Alphabet test with Bryan G0SYR



Right to left. Janette Ralph Caterham 9th Guide Leader, With Ted G7OBF and Mike G3TWJ operating the HF Station

Guide and Brownie companies during September.

The 2001 Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) for the Caterham Guides and Brownies was held on Saturday 20 October 2001 at the home and Ann and Paul Lewis, who hold the Radio Amateur Callsigns G7BSF and G4APL. Ann and Paul have opened up their home ten times, and re-arranged all the rooms to be able to run this event for the Caterham Guides and Brownies.

The Amateur Radio Callsign used for the event was again

GX0SCR, the special event Callsign of the Caterham Radio Group.

During the preceding week Ann and Paul re-arrange the house and on Friday set-up the equipment in each of the rooms.

The Event

Saturday 20 October Paul at 07:00hrs, Paul was found in the Radio Shack tuning around the 20 metre HF band, with his HF beam pointing towards New Zealand. Paul was listening to VK4BS (Brisbane Scout Hut), also two Strong stations in New Zealand (ZL2BD 59 and ZL2ANS 57). HF Conditions were going to be very good. So where were the in house Brownie and Guide. Still in bed.

First contact was made at 08:09 with Annabel, Young Leader 9th Caterham Brownies and Intermediate Licence Radio Amateur 2E1PAL in contact with New Zealand station



Annabel Lewis 9th Caterham Guide Young Leader 2E1PAL assisting Brownies complete their logs while Ann G7BSF operating the 2 metre GX0SCR station with Brownies waiting to send their Greeting Messages



Caterham 9th Brownie Belynda having successfully built the Crystal Set with Bryan G0SYR looking on.



Karen Booth Caterham 9th Brown Owl with her Brownies and Ann G7BSF on 145Mhz (2 Metres)

ZL400 Scout station in Alexander South Island. We then worked VK3DN 200km north Melbourne, VK4SRC 25km north Brisbane. Followed by VK6SDC with Bob VK6KW operating the JOTA Scout station 75km NE Perth Western Australia. They have 70 Beds on this Scout campsite.

Things were starting to buzz by now. While all this was going on the CatRad Jota Support team Mike G3TWJ, Bryan G0SYR, John G8MNY, Ted G7OBF with Janette Ralph (ROBIN) the hard working Caterham Guider arrived. Soon after followed by eleven Brownies from the 1st 9th 11th. The Brownies were ushered into the room to prepare their Greeting messages.

Mike took over from Paul on the HF station and the first groups of Brownies were sending their Greeting Messages to Western Australia, and speaking, listening to the scouts at the VK6SDC. Annabel was also in contact via Internet Email with Bob. Though Bob found us first. To quote from Bob's message ". Hi Annabel, After I sent my first message to you, I found the IPS High Frequency Prediction site on the net and printed out the charts for this and some other paths as well. Then just after I received your reply and was

contemplating sched options to suggest, I heard GX0SCR on 14.1364Mhz!

So I have just signed after 55 minutes of QSO with Paul (your dad?) he told me he has some clever daughters...how about that! Thanks, 73 & 88, de Bob VK6KW - Operator for VK6SDC Scouts @ Daybreak Campfarm Bakers Hill WA 6562"

We then change Frequency to 40 metres.

(7Mhz) For three and a half-hours, working Amateur Radio stations around the UK and Luxembourg. Then four hours on 10 metres (28Mhz) speaking to stations in US of A. After that we moved to 15 metres. (21Mhz) Paul tuned up and was called by David operating ZS6WRS in White River Scouts in NE South Africa. Mike took over again and CT7EPC Scout Group 110 in Portugal called us. After that ZS1SSB called, operated by Bud ZS1B at the Sea Scouts Base at Sandvlei 20km South of Cape Town South Africa. Mike was still operating (with Paul monitoring in the background). Signals were excellent 59 both ways. Mike was talking to these scouts for over an hour.

Here is an extract from a Packet Radio message from Bud ZS1B that was sent over the radio airwaves and



John G8MNY conducting an interactive discussion with the Brownies and Guides on radio transmitters, Receiver, aerials & propagation.

was downloaded from the Radio Amateur Satellite Gateway in Norwich England, before arriving at the Packet Radio BBS GB7CIP in Caterham.

Here is an extract from Bud's report: -
A REPORT ON ZS1SSB AT THE SEA SCOUTS BASE: 20-21 OCTOBER 2001

We have pleasure in reporting that a most successful operation took place at the Sea Scouts Base at Sandvlei during the Jamboree On The Air weekend. The interest shown in the ZS1SSB station by the scouts and their leaders was very much higher than any previous JOTA event that we can remember. At times we had more than twenty boys and girls at the station with up to 12 at a time standing behind the operator, waiting their turn to speak to other JOTA stations.

A few of the QSO's were quite remarkable. Perhaps the best scouting contact was with GX0SCR at Caterham, which lasted for about an hour, during which time no less than 14 scouts used the microphone. The band conditions on 15 metres were excellent with 5X9 + signals both ways for the whole QSO.

Their operator, Mike G3TJW, was most co-operative and enjoyed the exchanges as much as we all did. It was unfortunate that British JOTA stations were not permitted to allow their scouts to speak to us here in the RSA. South Africa was not on their "permitted" list! "

While this contact was going on the Caterham Brownies and Guides were sitting listening to the contact.

After the last Brownie and Guide left. It was Robin's quality Radio time. Paul took over from Mike, who had an excellent day on the HF station. So can Paul continue?

Let's find out. Paul explained to Robin his technique of tuning around the 20 Metre band and jotting down a few callsigns on the pad.

At 7:30 PM saw Robin speaking to Ginnie SM5PEY/5 operating SK5DB JOTA station Blue Shirt Skirts in Upsala Sweden, followed by Jonas SM5SRR Scout Leader of 25 scouts Upsala Sweden and spoke to two scouts. Paul turned the HF beam to the South and made contact with ZD7SSG Saint Helena South Atlantic. Robin spoke to Gilbert (ZD7BJ) operating the JOTA

station 1st Jamestown. This was immediately followed by a contact with ZD7VC also in Saint Helena, Robin spoke to Bruce. Bruce was not a JOTA station. He said "hang on". His wife Charmaine ZD7A came on the microphone. Charmaine explained that she was a Brownie Leader. Paul and Bruce sat back, while Charmaine and Robin (Janette) chatted about their various Brownie and Guiding experiences and comparing each other activities for over 30 minutes. Charmaine wants the Caterham Brownies to become Pen Pals with the Saint Helena brownies. What an excellent contact to finish the Caterham Guides HF Radio Day.

The HF station was active 07:00 to 21:00 hours.
67 greeting messages sent. 39 Received 29 Stations



Caterham 9th Brownie Emma Sheldon sending her greeting message with Ann G7BSF looking on

contacted.

The VHF 2 metre (145Mhz) Station was in the room where the QSL cards, greeting messages and learning the phonetic alphabet going on in the background. The station went on air with the Brownies at 09:30 Ann G7BSF in the chair, Annabel (Penguin) in her dual role of Young Leader assisting the Brownies and Guides with log keeping. Ted G7OBF assisted. Two CatRad members Bob G3DPW and Bill G0IEC assisted from their home stations, and contacted the 2m station during the afternoon and spoke to the Brownies and Guides. The 2metre station was active 09:30 to 18:00. 129 greeting messages sent. 15 Received 16 Stations contacted.

It was noticeable again on 2 metres, that not so many groups were active. 108 UK special event stations listed and 8 clubs.

The two Packet Radio PC's were connected into the Caterham Radio Group's TCP/IP server GB7CIP and provided the Guides lots of contacts all over the world as well as working other Guide and Scout groups within the UK. One Guide Samantha McCarthy 9th Caterham Guide enjoys packet so much that she was active all afternoon on the system and must be her 6th or 7th visit.

In the technical area looked after by John, Bryan and

Ted, the Brownies and Guides learnt about and how to build a crystal set, Radio Transmitter, Receivers, Aerials. Compared an old mobile phone with a modern phone, propagation, decoding Morse code message, sending their name in Morse as well as phonetic alphabet testing. All tasks required enabling the Brownies to gain their Radio Communication Badge and Guides their Certificate.

Lunchtime saw Paul again firing up the Barbecue in the garden. Under the shelter of the Garage in case it was going to rain. It turned out to be a nice day assisted by Bryan and the two 9th Caterham Brownies Belynda Lewis, Phillipa Martin both aged 8. Who took the orders and Paul and Bryan did their best to ensure the food was burnt enough before being consumed by those present.

29 stations were contacted on the HF (14,21,28 MHz) and LF (7 MHz) bands. Countries worked.

New Zealand

Alexander (JOTA)

Australia

Melbourne

Brisbane

Perth Western Australia JOTA

Preston Lancaster
Glensford Suffolk 1st Glensford HQ
Wrexham Wrexham District Scouts
South London

USA

Ohio River

Baltimore Maryland

Apple Valley Minnesota

Nr Austin Texas

Los Angeles California

On VHF 2 Metres 19 stations were worked.

Counties worked were

Cobham Surrey Walton Firs Scouts, Crowhurst East
Sussex

Cuffley Hertfordshire Radio Scouting Team

Guildford Surrey, Maidstone Kent

Slough Buckinghamshire Slough Girl Guides

Borehamwood Hertfordshire, South London

Send Surrey JOTA, Romford Essex

All those that attended the JOTA station to work towards their Radio Communication badge or Certificate completed all the required tasks by 19:00.

Janette 'Robin' was to have some excellent quality Amateur Radio time, while the rest of the house was put back together by Ted, Bryan and John. Special thank you from Ann.

29 Guides and Brownies attended their Radio Day.
Anne Wood Brownie Leader 1st Caterham Brownies
Karen Booth Brownie Leader 9th Caterham Brownies
Janette Ralph (Robin) 9th Caterham Guides
Nicola Edwards Guide Leader 11th Caterham Brownies
Annabel (Penguin) Young Leader 9th Caterham Brownies
4 Caterham 1st Brownies
4 Caterham 4th Brownies
6 Caterham 9th Brownies
2 Caterham 11th Brownies
2 Caterham 5th Guides
6 Caterham 9th Guides

Supported by 7 Radio Amateurs G3TWJ, G4APL, G7BSF, G7OBF, G8MNY, G0SYR and 2E1PAL (Young Leader), plus all those Radio Amateur's that came on to give our JOTA station a call to make it a very successful event for the Caterham Guides.

The evening ended with the team sitting down to the usual meal.

The next day Paul and family left to go away on Holiday in the Lake District.

After the event Paul spent a few evenings going through the logs to write out a QSL cards for all those Guides and Scouts and stations that we spoke to.

**Thank you all, Guider's, Guide
Helpers and the CatRad Jota Team**

≡A JOB WELL DONE≡



Brownie Leader Karen Booth Sends her very first Amateur Radio Greeting Message with Ann G7BSF.

Others

Porto Portugal JOTA

Luxembourg

White River South Africa JOTA

Upsala Sweden JOTA

Saint Helena JOTA

United Kingdom

Barrow in Furness Furness Scout Association

Halton Cheshire

Sandy Bedfordshire Sandy Scout Troup

Youlbry West Oxfordshire

Nr Cardiff Wales

Thinking Day On The Air 2002
CatRad + Guides TDOTA 2002
Guides On The Air GOTA 2002
Saturday 16/17 February 2002